

Essential Community Provider Trust Fund

Frequently Asked Questions (Dec. 3, 2008)

- 1. Are these funds still intended for "distressed" health centers or has the intent of the RFP changed this year?**

The cover letter sent to hospitals and community health centers specifies the criteria that will be considered when awarding these funds. Similar to previous years, this includes but is not limited to financial distress.

- 2. Can a community health center licensed and operated by a hospital apply for funding? Does it need to be a separate application?**

A community health center licensed and operated by a hospital can apply for funding. If the funding is specific to the community health center, a separate application for the community health center should be filed.

- 3. Must a community health center be deemed a federally qualified health center?**

No

- 4. Does an application need to be for new efforts or will funding be considered for existing efforts for which there is no other source of funding? And, will new efforts be prioritized?**

All applications for new efforts or existing efforts will be considered. The cover letter sent to hospitals and community health centers specifies the criteria that will be considered when awarding these funds.

- 5. What rate increases for mental health are being contemplated? Will these be for mental health services provided by community health centers or are they only intended for hospitals? Will they include pass-through funding for patients covered by MBHP & Beacon and the CommCare plans which don't carve out mental health services?**

These questions are beyond the scope of what can be answered at this time.

- 6. In past years, we have been able to apply for a grant to offset operational losses in the prior fiscal year, is it an option this year? The guidance says operational losses will be considered but does not say whether we can specifically apply in that category.**

The cover letter sent to hospitals and community health centers specifies the criteria

that will be considered when awarding these funds. Similar to previous years, this includes but is not limited to financial distress that providers have incurred.

- 7. If a health center already has all the components of a medical home in place can the health center apply to expand medical home capacity? In our case, we would like to hire up to four additional physicians in 2009 along with support staff, including community health workers and a social worker. Could we use funding for the start up costs associated with this expansion, including salaries during the period they are ramping up volume, electronic health record licenses, computers etc?**

The cover letter sent to hospitals and community health centers specifies the criteria that will be considered when awarding these funds. Applicants can request funding for the development of medical homes but it does not preclude a provider from requesting funding to enhance these services or for start up costs associated with these services.

- 8. Can we submit a proposal that expands both behavioral health and medical home capacity?**

Yes.

- 9. Is there any guidance regarding amount of funding to apply for?**

Please keep in mind that the funding available in FY 2009 ECPTF has decreased by \$12.5 million or 33% from FY 2008.

- 10. There is a question about CPOE that seems more relevant to hospitals than health centers. Should we answer yes to this question if we have an electronic medical record?**

All facilities should respond to this question regarding computerized physician order entry. Enter "yes" if your physicians enter orders using this system.

- 11. Is medical nutritional therapy the same as nutritional counseling?**

No, medical nutritional therapy goes beyond nutritional counseling. Please see definition below:

Medical nutritional therapy is nutritional diagnostic therapy and counseling services for the purpose of management of a medical condition.

- 12. Does all grant funding awarded under the ECPTF have to be spent by June 30, 2009?**

Yes.

- 13. We are interested in applying and have a copy of the cover letter, application instructions, and application form. Where would we find the guidelines for this grant, including award amounts, and information regarding what should be included in the 2-page narrative?**

The cover letter sent to hospitals and community health centers specifies the criteria that will be considered when awarding these funds.

- 14. I was reviewing the memo from EOHHS Secretary JudyAnn Bigby and it stated that EOHHS may authorize further distributions on an emergency basis to hospitals and community health centers facing extreme financial distress or closure. Do you know what the process is and what we need to do to petition the state to receive additional funding?**

The cover letter sent to hospitals and community health centers specifies the criteria that will be considered when awarding these funds. Similar to previous years, this includes but is not limited to financial distress or closure. In prior years, all of the ECPTF funding has been distributed through the same awards process even though some providers requested relief under this section in their application. The Secretary will determine the distributions from the fund.